

“Native American tribes have a unique relationship with the state’s natural resources. It is only by engaging in open, inclusive and regular communication that the interests of California’s tribes will be recognized and understood. Historically, state government and California’s tribes have experienced conflict. I intend to improve the relationships between the agency responsible for the state’s wild places and the native communities that have watched over them for centuries.”

— John Laird, *California Secretary for Natural Resources*

“The priorities of native peoples and nations should be recognized and represented in California’s Integrated Regional Water Management planning efforts. Your participation in this collaborative effort is a turning point in how state government partners with tribes to protect our state’s water resources.”

— Mark Cowin, *Department of Water Resources Director*



For more information or questions about IRWM please visit:
www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/index.cfm
or call (916) 651-9613 or email tribalpolicyadvisor@water.ca.gov

How California Native American Tribes Can Engage in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

1. What is Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)?

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a voluntary, locally driven, collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries and coordinates the involvement of multiple agencies, stakeholders, Native American Tribes (Tribes), individuals, and groups.

2. What is an IRWM Plan?

An IRWM Plan is a comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area. The IRWM Planning Act encourages local agencies, Tribes and stakeholders to work cooperatively to manage their water supplies and to seek mutual solutions to water management issues.

3. What is the IRWM Grant Program?

The IRWM grant program provides funding to incentivize formation and development of IRWM regions and plans as well as the implementation of those plans through projects. IRWM funding seeks to reward multi-purpose/multi-object, collaborative water management planning, programs, projects, and actions to help reduce conflicts between water management needs, such as water supply and flood management, and environmental concerns. The IRWM grant program funding was provided in Prop 50 and is currently available through Prop 84.

4. How can Tribes participate in IRWM grant funding?

For the IRWM grant program, the Department of Water

Resources only accepts one application from each IRWM region. The application may contain many projects from project proponents within the IRWM region. Tribes can access grant funding through collaboration and participation in their local IRWM group. Tribes have had success in the grant program through the North Coast IRWM application in the Round 1 Implementation Grant Solicitation.

5. How can Tribes participate in a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)?

Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) are responsible for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. A RWMG consists of three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of an IRWM Plan. Tribes can and do participate in IRWM region governance.

6. Future opportunities to participate:

Draft Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Packages for IRWM Round 3 are anticipated to be released in summer 2014 for public review. This is dependent upon DWR receiving an appropriation of local assistance funding in the fiscal year 2014-15 budget. Tribes are encouraged to provide suggestions for changes to program guidelines and solicitation requirements that would facilitate tribal involvement. For information on how to provide comments on future guidelines please visit: www.water.ca.gov/irwm/stratplan/workshops.cfm



THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Integrated Regional Water Management— 48 IRWM Regions and California Indian Trust Lands

